# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:363
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
CULTIVABLE LAND
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact any law to protect the shrinking cultivable land in the country especially due to industrialisation and acquisition for Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the shrinking cultivable land could lead to heavy shortage of foodgrains thereby threatening food security;and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken in this regard?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land falls under the purview of State Government, therefore, it is for the States to bring suitable legislation to protect the diversion of cultivable land for non-agricultural purposes including Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Land for SEZs is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments.

(c) & (d): Though, there has been an increase in land under non agricultural uses yet, the `net sown area` in the country has remained approximately the same i.e. 141 million ha due to various interventions made by the Government.